

**City of Fairfax
Commission for Women
Board Minutes
February 16, 2021(Virtual)**

Present: Pat Addison, Laila Acquavella, Mary Baker, Brenda Kuhlman, Huilan Larson, Teresa Presson, Lisa Whetzel, Beth Young and staff Lesley Abashian.

Not present: Roxanne Rowley, Stacey Hardy-Chandler.

I **Welcome**: Pat welcomed members and opened the virtual meeting at 7:05 pm

II. Minutes: The Minutes from the January meeting were discussed. On Page 5, Item 4, under Women's History, the name should read Beth, *not* Mary. The board moved to approve the minutes with the correction and some minor grammatical corrections.

III. Status: Women of Influence Award 2021.

Lesley reported five nominees have been received to date. A review committee of Pat, Teresa, Lisa and Roxann will review the submitted nominations and determine the award winner(s). The deadline for nominations is March 1.

The City's Communications Department provided three Women of Influence logo examples. Once chosen, the logo will be included on all communications around this award. Members discussed the applicability and usefulness of each design and decided that more thought needs to be given before choosing a logo. Pat asked Teresa and Mary to help provide additional suggestions. Laila offered to assist with developing the logo if needed.

IV. Update: Women's History Month Planning

1) *Women Owned Business Virtual Network Event:*

Beth announced that the virtual event is scheduled for **March 19, 2021 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm**. The event is cosponsored by EDA and CFW. Instead of a keynote speaker, the event will provide participants breakout group opportunities to network on different business-related topics. Zoom will be utilized for the event. As CFW Chair, Pat will provide a welcome at the event. Up to 100 participants can be pre-registered online. The event will include two raffles sponsored by City Merchants.

2) *Celebrating Women during 2021 Women's History Month.*

Beth offered ways to recognize the month with an online social media campaign by featuring targeted, woman-focused information on our Facebook page. This information will be linked to weekly themes including Facebook Groups, Artists, Movies and Books.

One idea was to help viewers on our Facebook page. Members volunteered to choose information to be posted. Beth will coordinate this social media activity.

*The Mayor will give a Women's History Month Proclamation on **Tuesday, 3/9/21** at the Council Meeting. Lesley will provide a meeting link to members so that they can be virtually present during the presentation.*

V. **Update: NACW Conference Planning**: Brenda reported that the NACW conference is planned for July 18 - July 22, 2021. The theme is "*Hear Our Voices: Equality, Resiliency, Advocacy*". The event will take place at the National Conference Center in Leesburg and will be hosted by the Loudoun County Commission for Women and Girls. Scheduled speakers include some familiar faces: Pat Wirth of the Occoquan Suffrage Historical Site, and Kate Campbell Stevenson, historical actor. Brenda asked members to share additional ideas for speakers. Each Commission for Women will have the opportunity to place an object in an event time capsule. Other details in process include transportation, agendas, sponsoring opportunities and leadership assignments. The group will be meeting each Tuesday at 4 - 5 pm.

VI. Human Services Director Report

1) Lesley provided an update on the City's ***Connected Fairfax City for All Project***, a community equity, and inclusion initiative. The project includes the establishment of a stakeholder group and community learning sessions. The City is collaborating with GMU's Carter School for this initiative. The learning sessions is open to all interested in participating. At the initial session, 83 people participated.

2) Lesley requested that members review the CFW webpage on the City of Fairfax's website and provide feedback.

3)**Budget**: the CFW's expenditures were low in FY 20 due to COVID restrictions. For FY 21, most of the budget remains available. Lesley suggested members discuss possible options for utilizing the available funds.

CFW Dates of Note: February: American Heart Health Month, Eating Disorders Awareness Week (2/21-2/27.) March: Women's History Month.

Pat adjourned the meeting reminding members the March meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 7 pm.